

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me today in wishing this great American every success as well as "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he brings to close a distinguished naval career.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, today I am supporting passage of the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations for fiscal year 1996. But I do so with reservation.

Affordable, safe, clean housing is a basic need which eludes many low-income families and elderly individuals. We should not be making extreme cuts to housing programs as our elderly population increases and personal income erodes for the working poor. It is ironic that as we push more people into the at-risk population for becoming homeless, we cut homeless programs by almost half.

I hope that my colleagues on the conference committee will be amenable to any increases suggested by their Senate counterparts.

Additionally, I supported the Stokes-Boehlert amendment to the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill, which eliminated legislative language that would gut portions of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. If the amendment had been approved it would have protected both public health and the legislative process.

Under the Stokes-Boehlert amendment the legislative process, to which we have grown accustomed in this country, would have been preserved. No matter what Members think about the details of the riders that would have been eliminated by the amendment, all should agree that the appropriations process is not the place to have a full and informed discussion of environmental policy. This appropriations process has robbed the public and this body of its chance to have a full and informed discussion of environmental policy.

NOTING THE PASSING OF  
MARJORIE BLACK WILSON

**HON. LOUIS STOKES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 1, 1995*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker. I am saddened to rise today and report the passing of Marjorie Black Wilson. Marjorie was a very gifted

and inspirational woman who was loved by all who knew her. On July 16, 1995, the St. Louis community mourned her passing after a prolonged illness. I join my colleague from Missouri, BILL CLAY, his wife, Carol, and many other as we reflect upon the life and legacy of this talented and courageous individual.

Throughout her life, Marjorie Black Wilson gave freely of her time and talents. For many years, she volunteered in city schools where she counseled teenage girls on the importance of education. She also had a great love for the arts and theater. In remembering Marjorie, friends recall that she was the type of person who always expected the best from people. Marjorie encouraged others, and she inspired them to reach their fullest potential. They also recall that during her long battle with cancer, Marjorie did not retreat, but she drew them even closer and sought to educate women of color about the disease.

Just recently, The St. Louis American paid special tribute to Marjorie Black Wilson and acknowledged her contributions to the St. Louis community. The article captures the spirit of an individual who was very special to each of us. I am pleased to share this article with my colleagues and the nation.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of Marjorie Black Wilson brings to a close a rich, full life devoted to family, friends, and the community. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Marjorie will always remember her zest for living. My wife, Jay, and I extend our deepest sympathy to her husband, Earl; to her daughters, Denise, Stacy, Kim, and other members of the Wilson family. We take comfort in knowing that Marjorie's spirit lives on.

[From the St. Louis American, July 20-26, 1995]

MARJORIE BLACK WILSON LOVED ARTS AND THEATER

(By Kimberly Kendle)

DOWNTOWN.—A phenomenal woman. Someone who wove a tapestry of love. A friend to children, an appreciator and champion of the arts and theater. A tenacious spirit who was always driven, even in the face of adversity.

These are the words used by close friends of Marjorie Black Wilson, an artist and volunteer in St. Louis public schools, who died Sunday, July 16, 1995, at home in her sleep after a prolonged illness. She was 61.

"She truly had a zest for life and lived it fully and lovingly until the end," said Barbara J. Mabrey, who met Wilson in college in 1952. "She possessed an unusual ability to establish and maintain close relationships. Margie cultivated, nurtured and enriched relationships with many people. She made each of her friends feel very special and important to her."

Mrs. Wilson was born September 5, 1933, to Theodore and Lurline Black in Jefferson City, Mo. She attended the Jefferson City Public Schools and attended college at Lincoln University where she graduated magna cum laude. While attending Lincoln University, she met her husband, Earl Wilson Jr. The two married June 11, 1954, and moved extensively around the country and abroad before setting in St. Louis in 1987.

Mrs. Wilson volunteered in city schools, counseling teen-aged girls on parenting skills and the importance of education in a program called Sisters and Sisters United. The program encourages leadership, character development, rights of passage and womanhood training. She encouraged the girls to postpone sex and parenthood until they finished high school and college.

"One of the things she would do is tell them (the students) about her travels," and Cora Cade-Lemmon who knew Mrs. Wilson for four years. "She had an Afrocentric spelling bee where she would give the girls awards."

Mrs. Wilson was expecting the best from people, Cade-Lemmon added. Cade-Lemmon recalled one day when Wilson, who wanted to give fruit as a reward to the students for good work on their projects, was skeptical about how the children would receive the kind gesture.

"We were thinking these kids aren't going to be into fruit," Cade-Lemmon said. "It turned out to be one of the best awards we had."

During her eight-year battle with cancer, Mrs. Wilson worked diligently to educate women of color about the disease. She is featured in a program to be aired this summer on PBS on treatment options for black women stricken with cancer.

"Margie dealt with her illness as she did with her life, accepting those things she could not change, always including family and friends in her endeavors and fighting the good fight until the end," said Elizabeth J. Chandler, a close friend of Mrs. Wilson.

"I guess the thing I remember most about her is that she was a cancer survivor," Cade-Lemmon said. "Her love for life, she lived life fully and encouraged the girls to do the same. She didn't talk about her illness. She focused on the girls and their development. She put them first."

Mrs. Wilson frequently traveled with her students to visit black colleges and universities across the nation. An admirer of poetry, Mrs. Wilson often took her books with her on such trips, Cade-Lemmon said. "She felt very strongly that only African Americans can save African-American children and that we must lift while we climb."

Mrs. Wilson's ability to lift as she climbed also spread to the world of arts and theater, and she frequently found herself enjoying plays at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theater with friends.

"She was an appreciator and champion of the arts. She encouraged all artists and was a source of inspiration to us all," said Chirley Simmons, an artist and friend of Mrs. Wilson for 10 years.

In what was described by one friend as "a tapestry of love," Marjorie Wilson will be best remembered for her kindness and generosity as she embraced life fully and forcefully.

"Her spirit is alive," Cade-Lemmon said quietly, as she reflected on the memory of a friend. "What she left with us in that life is for the living. And so we take those memories, those memories of Marjorie, we take them with us."

A rosary Mass will be celebrated 7 p.m. Friday, July 21, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 701 N. 18th Street. A brief prayer service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery in North St. Louis.

Among the survivors are her husband, Earl Wilson Jr.; three daughters, Denise Wilson of Washington, D.C., Stacey Wilson of Paris, France, and Kimberly Wilson of Washington, D.C.; one grandson, Timothy Alexander Brown Jr.; a sister, Mildred Ballard of Washington, D.C.; a brother, Theodore Black Jr. of Omaha, Neb.; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.